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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT application of: )  
SHUNPEI YAMAZAKI et al )  
Serial No. 09/396,381 ) Art Unit: 1773  
Filed: September 15, 1999 ) Examiner: L. Kiliman  
For: APPARATUS FOR FABRICATING )  
COATING AND METHOD OF )  
FABRICATING THE COATING )

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 11-23-99

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 7, 21, 35 and 49 in their entirety.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for operating an optical disk memory comprising the steps of:

introducing an optical disk having a surface protected by a protective film comprising a [diamond-like carbon] hard carbon coating having a thickness of 500Å or less;

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